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Evening Papers	..	25th November, 1941.
Morning Papers	..	26th November, 1941.

RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1941.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for September Quarter 1941 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were :- Brisbane 962, Toowoomba 952, Rockhampton 960, Townsville 1,004 Bundaberg 940, Charters Towers 970 and Warwick 928.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown :-

Town.	September Qr. 1941 - Percentage increase compared with:-		
	Year Ended June 1939.	Sept. Qr. 1940.	June Qr. 1941.
Brisbane ..	11.47	6.18	0.84
Toowoomba ..	11.87	6.37	0.95
Rockhampton ..	11.50	6.67	0.73
Townsville ..	10.09	5.80	0.90
Bundaberg ..	11.77	7.43	0.97
Charters Towers ..	12.79	5.78	0.52
Warwick ..	12.90	7.66	0.54

Clothing and footwear and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter, and since 1938-39.

Town.	Clothing & Footwear.		Miscellaneous Items.	
	Percentage Increase on June Qr. 1941.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on June Qr. 1941.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.
Brisbane ..	3.72	38.00	1.57	8.94
Toowoomba ..	3.42	38.48	1.62	8.75
Rockhampton ..	3.36	38.46	1.52	10.34
Townsville ..	3.29	38.10	2.33	12.14
Bundaberg ..	2.51	36.35	1.62	7.87
Charters Towers	2.85	35.65	1.23	9.21
Warwick ..	3.19	37.33	1.22	7.88

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) "B" Series.

Index numbers for September Quarter 1941 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State capitals) were :- Brisbane 876, Toowoomba 846, Rockhampton 853, Townsville 921, Bundaberg 827, Charters Towers 823 and Warwick 808.

From June Quarter 1941 to September Quarter 1941 this index showed the following percentage declines in five cities, - Brisbane 0.68, Rockhampton 2.18, Townsville 0.65, Bundaberg 0.24, Charters Towers 1.08, Warwick 0.98, but Toowoomba showed an increase of 1.20 per cent. The Food and Groceries Index declined in all cities by the following percentages :- Brisbane 1.00, Toowoomba 0.82, Rockhampton 1.19, Townsville 1.13, Bundaberg 0.74, Charters Towers 1.55, Warwick 1.56. The main cause of the decrease was a fall in the price of eggs. Rents showed increases in Toowoomba (4.40 per cent.), Townsville (0.35 per cent.), Bundaberg (1.09 per cent.), Warwick (0.14 per cent.) and decreases in Brisbane (0.12 per cent.), Rockhampton (4.14 per cent.). Charters Towers remained stationary.

Compared with September Quarter 1940 there were increases in the combined Food and Rent Index in Brisbane (0.81 per cent.), Toowoomba (0.36 per cent.), Rockhampton (0.83 per cent.), Bundaberg (2.35 per cent.), Charters Towers (0.49 per cent.), Warwick (1.89 per cent.); Townsville did not alter. The Food and Groceries Index showed percentage rises as follows :- Brisbane 1.25, Toowoomba 0.36, Rockhampton 0.55, Bundaberg 2.94, Charters Towers 0.21, Warwick 2.43; Townsville declined slightly (0.21).

In Brisbane the principal increases for Food and Groceries were those for tea and beef. There were smaller increases in milk, oats, tinned salmon, jam, onions and kerosene. There was a substantial decrease in potatoes between the September Quarter 1940 and September 1941. There were very small increases in rent in all cities.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in September Quarter 1941 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing and Footwear.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba ..	19.10	19. 0	19.11	1. 0. 1
Rockhampton ..	19.11	1. 0. 6	17. 9	1. 0. 5
Townsville ..	1. 0.10	1. 1. 7	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 3
Bundaberg ..	19. 7	1. 1. 3	15. 1	1. 0. 0
Charters Towers	1. 0. 2	1. 1. 6	14. 6	1. 0. 2
Warwick ..	19. 4	19.10	16. 2	19.10

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State.	METROPOLITAN.				STATE AVERAGES. c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State basic Wage in Brisbane.	Actual Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Q'land.	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State basic Wage in Q'land.	State Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s.d.	s.d.		£ s. d.	£ s.d.	s.d.
Queensland	962	4. 9. 0	4.9.0 a	- -	964	4. 9. 8	4.9.8	- -
N. S. W.	1027	4.15. 0	4.9.0 b	6.0	1025	4.15. 4	4.9.0	6.4
Victoria	1009	4.13. 4	4.8.0 b	5.4	1005	4.13. 6	4.7.8	5.10
South Aust.	990	4.11. 7	4.4.0 a	7.7	985	4.11. 7	4.4.0	7.7
West. Aust.	1002	4.12. 8	4.10.5 a	2.3	1016	4.14. 6	4.11.6	3.0
Tasmania	1003	4.12.10	4.5.0 b	7.10	990	4.12. 1	4.4.0	8.1

- Current State Basic Wage.
- Commonwealth basic wage, applicable from first pay period of November, 1941. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.
- Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEXES.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ending Decr. 1928.	Year Ending June 1939.	Year Ending Sept. 1941.	QUARTERS ENDING.				
				Sept. 1940.	Decr. 1940.	March 1941.	June 1941.	Sept. 1941.
Brisbane ..	917	863	951	906	938	950	954	962
Toowoomba ..	906	851	941	895	932	937	943	952
Rockhampton ..	903	861	948	900	932	947	953	960
Townsville ..	1023	912	991	949	972	991	995	1004
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	925	875	907	921	931	940
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	915	864	952	906	939	951	955	964
Charters Towers	925	860	958	917	938	958	965	970
Warwick ..	914	822	915	862	896	911	923	928

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

CITY.	Year Ending Decr. 1928.	Year Ending June. 1939.	Year Ending Sept. 1941.	QUARTERS ENDING.				
				Sept. 1940.	Decr. 1940.	March 1941.	June 1941.	Sept. 1941.
Brisbane ..	901	852	889	869	894	902	882	876
Toowoomba ..	833	821	854	843	869	866	836	846
Rockhampton ..	858	837	865	846	860	874	872	853
Townsville ..	1047	916	931	921	928	946	927	921
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	832	808	830	840	829	827
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	892	851	886	867	890	899	879	874
Charters Towers	942	783	830	819	824	841	832	823
Warwick ..	841	768	816	793	814	826	816	808

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity.	Year Ending June 1939.	MONTH OF		Commodity & Unit of Quantity.	Year Ending June 1939.	MONTH OF	
		June 1941.	Sept. 1941.			June 1941.	Sept. 1941.
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.75	5.75	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	6.25	6.25
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Bacon (Rashers) 1 lb.	14.81	14.95	14.86
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	33.73	37.73	Beef - Sirloin			
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	9.65	10.25
Jam (Plum) 1½ lb.	8.02	9.00	8.97	Beef - Steak			
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	11.45	11.50	Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	12.40	13.50
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	7.77	8.27	Beef - Rolled			
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	2.23	4.00	Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	6.30	6.70
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.27	6.24	Mutton - Leg 1 lb.	7.75	8.35	7.90
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.00	19.00	Mutton - Chops			
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	13.32	13.27	Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	8.30	7.65
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	20.82	15.91	Pork - Leg .. 1 lb.	11.40	11.30	11.75